

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 PC-01 IO-13 /092 W
-----100022 051750Z /41

R 041829Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1176
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, GT
SUBJ: SOLDIERS AND VILLAGERS CLASH IN JUTIAPA DEPARTMENT

1. FOLLOWING A DRINKING BOUT AUGUST 2, A GROUP OF VILLAGERS (FOUR OF WHOM WERE ON HORSEBACK) IN JALPATAGUA, JUTIAPA, REPORTEDLY FIRED ON THE LOCAL MILITARY OUTPOST, AND WERE MET BY GUNFIRE WHICH LEFT ONE DEAD AND POSSIBLY SEVERAL INJURED. TWO PERSONS WERE CAPTURED. THE INCIDENT IS NOT ENTIRELY WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN THE WILD AND WOOLY ORIENTE; BUT BECAUSE IT BEARS SOME SUPERFICIAL SIMILARITY TO THE RECENT PANZOS TRAGEDY, SOME COMMENTATORS MAY BE TEMPTED TO DRAW COMPARISONS.

2. THE EVENT HAS GENERALLY BEEN REPORTED BY THE LOCAL PRESS AS ONE IN WHICH A FEW PERSONS WITH TOO MUCH TO DRINK TOOK A FEW POTSHOTS AT SENTRIES. THE IMPLICATION IS THAT, AS IGUPANZOS, THE MILITARY OVERREACTED. THIS VIEW IS BUTTRESSED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCE THAT THE MILITARY SUFFERED NO INJURIES AND THE OUTPOST WAS APPARENTLY NOT HIT. THE MAYOR OF JALPATAGUA,
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AN MLN SUPPORTER, APPARENTLY SEES IT IN THIS LIGHT. HE REPORTEDLY ASKED FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE LIEUTENANT COMMANDING THE DETACHMENT. THE MAYOR TOLD REPORTERS FERRIED TO THE AREA BY ARMY HELICOPTER THAT IT IS COMMON FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS TO TAKE A FEW DRINKS AND FIRE SHOTS IN THE AIR. INITIAL MEDIA PLAY HAD SUGGESTED THE ATTACK WAS DIRECTED BY GUERRILLAS; THE MILITARY, PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY, NOW DISCOUNT ANY SUCH

INSPIRATION. THE VICTIM, WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND A BLOCK AWAY
FROM THE OUTPOST, WAS THE EQUIVALENT OF A SHERIFF'S DEPUTY
(ALCALDE AUXILIAR). HE REPORTEDLY WAS HOLDING A PISTOL IN
HIS HAND WITH FIVE SHOTS FIRED.
BOSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PROVINCE, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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